

Attorney Docket No. P11547-US1
Customer Number 27045

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 2, 4-8 and 12-15; and claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 16 was previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-15, and 17-25 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-15, 17-22 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macridis, et al. (GB2320162) in view of Gilman, et al. (EP0763940). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 1 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The Applicant has amended claims 4-14 to depend from allowable claim 2. Furthermore, the Applicant has amended claim 15 to contain the limitations of claim 2. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

3.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claim 2. As the Examiner has suggested, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

As noted above, claim 2 has been amended in order to overcome the Examiner's objections. Consequently, the Applicant believes claim 2 is also in a condition of allowance. Claims 3-8, 12-14 and 23 depend from amended claim 2 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 2. Therefore, the allowance of claims 3-8, 12-14 and 23 is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Therefore, it is respectfully believed that claim 15 is also in a condition of allowance. Claims 17-22

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and 24-25 depend from amended claim 15 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 15 (which contain the elements of claim 2). Therefore, the allowance of claims 17-22 and 24-25 is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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